It’s 1920 and four teams you probably never heard of are about to do probably the most important thing in NFL history. The Canton Bulldogs,| Dayton Triangles,| Akton Pros| and Cleveland Tigers| were going to make history and not just NFL history, this meeting| would put into motion one of the biggest organizations in the USA. In Dayton’s first season they played basketball, as they were a couple of basketball players who just graduated from St.Mary’s (now University of Dayton)|. As the Dayton St. Mary's Cadets| their basketball season went well even beating the Buffalo Germans| (45-30) in 1913 said Germans once won 111 games in a row and once had every one of their players go to the olympics|. Quick quiz: what country did the Germans basketball team represent? That’s right the stars and stripes (Honduras 1913 variation of course)| red white and blue (Russia)| Russia’s flag didn’t look like that!|(Chile) America| (Americas) USA| (United Scenic Artists) you know what I’m talking about. But yes the Germans represented the USA in the 1908 olympics. In their 1913 season they went 8-9| including a 74-6 game against the Akron Wilmars. Anyway later in 1913| they became a football team in the Ohio league where they went 7-0| including a 66-2 blowout against the Newcastle Maxwell-Briscoes but they were one of only 2 teams that managed to score anything on them. The other being the Dayton Oakwoods who scored on them in 2 games. In 1914 the basketball team seemingly no longer exists but football is still here 5-5 this season. Not much to talk about here. The 1915| Dayton Gym-Cadets| (changed their name and head coach bye Louis Clark hello Al Mahrt|) they were funded by the Dayton Gymnastic Club| (no a higher quality picture doesn’t exist) this season they went 7-1-1 including a 0-0 tie against the Cincinnati Celts and a 20-7 win over the Toledo Maroons. Looking through their roster we see that Carl Storck|, a future NFL commissioner, played this season. Their brand new head coach| was also arguably the best passer in the NFL’s inaugural season 1916|: first year they’re the Dayton triangles,| to celebrate they posted a 72-0 win in their first game. This name change was again due to a sponsorship of 3 (get it 3 triangle?) factories. They went 9-1| this season. This is the first season they played in triangle park| instead of Westwood park. Some might say that “the triangles were named after triangle park not those factories” I say that it seems the park was named after the factories too although I am not tooooo sure. In 1917| a new sponsor; the Dayton-Wright airplane Company| named that do to Orville Wright |working for that company. One of the founders of the Dayton-Wright airplane Company (Charles Franklin Kettering) also founded Delco (now Aptiv)| and two of the factories funding the triangles were Delco factories. Also during this time Delco owned the Dayton-Wright airplane Company! Unfortunately for me to say that those two factories worked for the Dayton-Wright airplane Company we have a list of factories that the Dayton-Wright airplane Company used: one in Moraine, one in Miamisburg| and just one in Dayton|. Wait, Miamisburg and Moraine are suburbs of Dayton!| (note: put maps of where they are so the “wait makes sense!) anyway in 1917 they went 5-1-2 both ties coming against the Cincinnati Celts their lone loss being against the Toledo Maroons! One of their wins came against 42nd Aero Squad where they won 54-6. The 42nd Aero Squad was a military training squadron used in WW1. Meaning that this was the air force's| first football game not the 1955 game against the Denver Pioneers’ freshmen. In 1918| they went 8-0| looking through their roster we see their head coach is Greasy Neale|. The starting right fielder for the world series winning 1919 reds. Albeit their opponents were the black sox. He even coached the Philadelphia Eagles during their 1948 and 1949 NFL championships! He was inducted into bothe the NFL hall of fame and the college football hall of fame. What a person. In this season only the Detroit Heralds (a future NFL team) and the Hammond Clabbys which have no relation to the Hammond Pros. In 1919| Dayton went 5-2-1| (clicks through the “down slides”) their first game was against the Indianapolis Marmon 34's. What’s a Marmon 34? A type of car|. No not a car company; one singular type of car. It was made by the same people who made the Marmon Motor Car Company Model 32.| You know the car that

won the first indy-500,| They later renamed themselves Marmon-Herrington| and are still in business to this day. Although they are owned by Berkshire Hathaway. Yes, the same people that own GEICO and Duracell. In 1920| The Canton Bulldogs,| Dayton Triangles,| Akton Pros| and Cleveland Indians| got together to start a brand new league after some discussion on the rules for the league the American Professional Football Conference was founded. But with only four teams it wouldn't be much of a league so on September 17 they got a bunch of other teams. Along with some letters the now named American Professional Football Association was ready for its first season they went 5-2-2| and were 5th in the league. Their first game may be the first in NFL history that or the rock island independents against the Muncie flyers. Going into week 7 they had an undefeated record but lost twice to the Akton pros.

O.K. this has almost nothing to do with Dayton but remember Charles Franklin Kettering? Ya he was part of DYC (Detroit Yacht Club). In 1921 Dayton added more bleachers in an unusual place; behind the goal post. You might say Daniel NFL teams do that today too, but in 1921 the goal post was still in the endzone. Which would put these new bleachers also in the end-zone too, right? Anyway they went 4-4-1. In 1922 the triangles went against the Rock Island Independents in the pouring rain the water was ankle deep. This game also has a very confusing part after the Independents get their first touchdown they receive the kickoff again. So I looked up the 1922 NFL rule book; couldn't find it but I did find the 1921 rule book and it said that if the team so chooses they could have the team that just scored on them get the ball after they scored or they could choose to get the ball themselves. This is a direct quote "the side just scored upon shall have the option of kicking off or having their opponents kick off." Why would Dayton decide to give the ball up? I don't have an answer do you? Anyway the game ended 43-0 Rochester as a team the triangles went 4-3-1. The 1923 Triangles didn't do well they went 1-6-1 their lone win coming against the Columbus Tigers in week one who just had an 0-8 season. Albeit they went 5-4-1 this season. This was also their lone home game they had 7 away games. They were supposed to play the Toledo Maroons but they were struggling financially so asked for more money than Dayton was willing to give so they canceled the game. They planned to play against Steubenville instead but rain made that a no-go. In 1924 Dayton at least managed 2 home games, even won one of them but still went 2-6. The next season didn't go as well they went 0-7-1 that makes it sound better they it is they scored three points all season. Remember when they tried to play Steubenville in that 1923 season Steubenville wasn't even an NFL team but they still managed a 0-0 tie. I'm not counting non-NFL games in their record that one tie was against the Rock Island Independents also 0-0. Now this might seem horrible and it is but just last season, 1924 the Rochester Jeffersons in their fourth consecutive winless season they managed zero points against NFL opponents. Now this season they had 0 home games, no one wanted to play them in their stadium they had to go over to other teams like the 1899 Cleveland spiders|. In 1926| they went 1-4-1 now this was trouble the NFL was about to purge the league of the poorest teams, and being a founding member wasn't any help both Akron and Canton would be expelled due to this. Akron even had a better record than them (better records almost always mean more money). They initially wanted 16 teams, with the rest going to a "B league". but then after seeing how many unstable teams they would haft to keep brought it down to 12 with no "B league". Dayton made the cut. 1927 they went 1-6-1

In 2020, exactly 100 years after Dayton joined the NFL, a Field was built in Dayton fit for an NFL team. It was paid for by the NFL foundation

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